

JUN 25 2007

Serial No. 09/543,754
Page 10 of 13**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, 9, 12, and 16-18 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0070958 to Yeo et al.; and claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,439 to Kuwabara et al. Applicants amend claim 12 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Yeo et al. only include description of saving representative frames for displaying visual program summaries at each respective channel, as shown in Fig. 6 thereof.

Thus, Yeo et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

“[a] frame forwarding installation for receiving frames, which are directed toward a subordinate destination terminal, from a plurality of paths and transmitting one of the frames to the destination terminal, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving a frame in duplicate from a plurality of paths;

a storage unit for storing an identifier of a frame that has been transmitted to the destination terminal; and

a redundant-frame filter for determining whether a frame identifier of a frame newly received from one of said plurality of paths has already been stored in said storage unit, discarding the received frame if the received frame has the frame identifier that has already been stored in said storage unit, and transmitting the received frame to the destination terminal and storing the identifier of the received frame in said storage unit if the received frame is not the frame that has already been received,” as recited in claim 12. (Emphasis added)

W4222725_1

Serial No. 09/543,754
Page 11 of 13

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12, together with claim 14 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Yeo et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. The Examiner relied upon Kuwabara et al. as a combining reference to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 13 and 15. As such, the addition of this reference would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Yeo et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such an addition would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 15 are patentable over Yeo et al. and Kuwabara et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,883,891 to Williams et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,471 to Bushmitch et al.; claims 4, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. in view of Bushmitch et al. and further in view of Kuwabara et al.; and claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. in view of Bushmitch et al. and further in view of Yeo et al. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, and 9 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

Williams et al. describe, on col. 2, lines 11-30 thereof, that critical data is transmitted redundantly in order to reduce delay on the Internet. And Bushmitch et al. describe a payload being sent and received in accordance with a Real Time Protocol ("RTP").

84222725_1

Serial No. 09/543,754
Page 12 of 13

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Williams et al. and Bushmitch et al., such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] frame forwarding installation for sending a received frame to a path conforming to a destination address contained in a header of the frame, which has been received from a transmitting terminal, comprising:

an application discriminating unit for referring to the header of the received frame and determining whether an application of a host layer in the transmitting terminal is a real-time application; and

a frame transmitting unit for sending in duplicate the received frame to a plurality of paths in parallel in the direction of a destination if the application is a real-time application. and for sending the received frame to an only path in the direction of a destination if the application is not a real-time application.” as recited in claim 1.
(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-3 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Williams et al. and Bushmitch et al., separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 5 and 9 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 6-7 and 10 dependent therefrom, respectively, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The Examiner relied upon Kuwabara et al. as a combining reference to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 4, 8, and 11. As such, the addition of this reference would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Williams et al. and Bushmitch et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such an addition would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants

H4222725_1

JUN 25 2007

Serial No. 09/543,754
Page 13 of 13

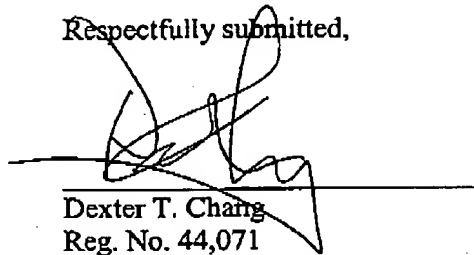
respectfully submit that claims 4, 8, and 11 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

Claims 16-18 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 12 cited above, which are not disclosed by Yeo et al., as described above. Thus, the combination of Williams et al., Bushmitch et al., and Yeo et al., would still have failed to disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 16-18, even assuming, arguendo, that such a combination would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-18 are patentable over Williams et al., Bushmitch et al., and Yeo et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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